

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

WY-050-DNA14-64

**Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden
Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Project Expansion
BLM Federal Oil and Gas Lease WYW-78561
Section 32, Township 39 North, Range 90 West**



PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Lander FO
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520 USA



Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

WY-050-DNA14-64

Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater

Monitoring Project Expansion

BLM Federal Oil and Gas Lease WYW-78561

Section 32, Township 39 North, Range 90 West

**Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
BLM Lander Field Office
Lander, Wyoming**

This page intentionally
left blank

Table of Contents

1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)	1
--	----------

This page intentionally
left blank

List of Tables

Table 1.1. List of Preparers	3
------------------------------------	---

This page intentionally
left blank

Chapter 1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Project Expansion

This page intentionally
left blank

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: BLM Lander Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: WY-050-DNA14-64

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: WYW-78561

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Project Expansion

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Section 32, Township 39 North, Range 90 West

APPLICANT: Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P.

A. Description of Proposed Action:

Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P., L.P. (Burlington) submitted a Sundry Notice with the BLM Lander Field Office on June 2, 2014 to install five additional groundwater monitoring wells on BLM surface around the Madden Deep Unit No. 9 natural gas well pad. The original groundwater monitoring project was approved in accordance with Environmental Assessment WY-050-EA14-01, dated January 16, 2014. The project is participating in the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program to oversee the soil and groundwater cleanup from historical operations.

This Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) approves the installation of five groundwater monitoring wells around an existing natural gas well pad. Minimal surface disturbance will be required. No new access roads will be required. A truck mounted drill rig will be allowed to drive cross-country one time to install the wells. All subsequent monitoring will be done on foot. The depths of the wells will range from 35 to 65 feet, and the long-term (20+ years) footprint for each well will be 2 feet x 2 feet. Conditions of Approval (COA) are attached to the Sundry Notice as part of this approval, and will mitigate the potential adverse impacts associated with the project activities. As directed by WO IM No. 2004-194, should the Sundry Notice be approved, all applicable Best Management Practices (BMP) will be incorporated into the Proposed Action and/or will be included in the BLM applied Conditions of Approval.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance:

LUP Name:	<u>Lander Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP)</u>	Date Approved:	<u>June 26, 2014</u>
-----------	--	----------------	----------------------

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the Lander RMP. Current policies for development and land use decisions within this area are contained the Lander Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, dated June 26, 2014. The Lander RMP allows for development of oil and gas on BLM lands subject to Controlled Surface Use and Timing Limitation Stipulations.

C. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and Other Related Documents That Cover the Proposed Action:

Environmental Assessment WY-0050-EA14-01, dated January 16, 2014, is the original approval document for the Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Project.

Cultural Report WY-050-2014-030, dated December 2, 2013, provides the cultural and paleontological clearance for the Proposed Action. In addition, a Class I Cultural Resource Inventory was completed by a BLM archeologist on June 4, 2014, to verify that no further cultural resource involvement would be required.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas Project in order to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the expanded natural gas development that was proposed by the operators of the three units. This project was originally proposed as the Gun Barrel, Madden Deep, and Iron Horse Unit (GMI) Natural Gas Project EIS. BLM allows for continued exploration and some development activities on federal surface and minerals as authorized under the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations and 40 CFR 1506.1. An Interim Drilling Plan (IDP) for the Moneta Divide Project area was developed according to these Regulations and additional criteria, with the purpose of establishing guidelines for drilling and development within the Moneta Divide Project area boundary. This project is located within this boundary and BLM is applying Conditions of Approval to the Sundry Notice to conform within the scope of the Moneta Divide Project EIS analysis, while also preventing impacts to resources that could limit the range of alternatives within the Moneta Divide Natural Gas Project EIS.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the new Proposed Action is essentially similar to the Proposed Action and within the same area analyzed in EA No. WY-050-EA14-01, dated January 16, 2014, which included the following:

“It is my decision to authorize the Sundry Notice submitted by Burlington for the Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Wells. The wells are located on BLM Surface on Federal Oil and Gas Lease WYW-78561, and are administered by the BLM Lander Field Office, State of Wyoming.”

“The Selected Alternative is consistent with the LFO Proposed RMP Final EIS (BLM, 2013), and the pending BLM LFO RMP Revision, which has not currently been authorized or accepted, but is anticipated to be signed in early winter of 2014.”

The proposed groundwater monitoring wells will be placed around the existing Madden Deep Unit No. 9 groundwater monitoring area, approved in accordance with Environmental Assessment

No. WY-050-EA14-01, dated January 16, 2014, which authorized the Madden Deep Unit No. 9 Groundwater Monitoring Project. Negligible surface disturbance will be required as the long term footprint for each of the five wells will be 2 feet x 2 feet. The Proposed Action is covered under the original archeological clearance for the original project. In addition, the wildlife clearance under the EA for the original project would essentially be similar for this Proposed Action.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents are appropriate for the current Proposed Action. No new alternatives have been proposed to address additional issues or concerns. No new information has been identified that requires change or consideration of new alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

Yes. The Environmental Assessment WY-050-EA14-01, dated January 16, 2014, analyzes impacts to the appropriate affected environment for the Proposed Action. There is no new information or circumstance that would invalidate the existing analysis. Data reaffirm that the NEPA documentation identified all resource concerns for the affected environment. The Proposed Action will not adversely affect Public Land Health Standards.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the current Proposed Action are not different from those identified in the existing NEPA documents (except for the fact that this action requires no new surface disturbance), and the Proposed Action would not substantially change the cumulative impact analysis.

5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes. Public outreach through scoping and involvement of the public and other agencies occurred in the development of existing NEPA documents. No new, interested parties have been identified from the previous public outreach.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Table 1.1. List of Preparers

Name	Discipline	Role
Andrew Gibbs	Natural Resource Specialist	Author
Tim Vosburgh	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife and T&E
Craig Bromley	Archeologist	Cultural and Paleontological
Judi Mott	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Rangeland Resources
Ben Kniola	Assistant Field Manager	Review

Note: See EA No. WY-050-EA14-01 for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original NEPA documents.

F. Conclusion:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

Field Manager, Lander Field Office, Richard VanderVoet

Date

Note:

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.